



# Sheffield TIMES

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. II, Issue 5 May/June 2003



Friday afternoons starting May 9th, the Farmers' Market of Sheffield offers fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, flowers, baked goods, honey, syrup, mustards, sauces, pasta, soup and even soaps -- not to mention the special craft fairs and events. Here, at last year's Market, Bob Kelly, of Bob Kelly's Farm on Hewins Street in Ashley Falls, and Edith Velman, also of Sheffield talk as she decides what to purchase. The cut flowers in the background are from Anna Mack who farms on Bow Wow Road in Sheffield.

## FARMERS' MARKET TO OPEN 3<sup>RD</sup> SEASON

The Farmers' Market of Sheffield will open for the season on May 9, just in time for Mother's Day, in the parking lot next to Old Parish Church on the Sheffield Green.

The market has grown this year with several new vendors—Monkshood Nursery, Cynthia's Soaps, Bee Fruitful Apiary and White Birch Flower Farm. Returning are many old favorites, including Berkshire Mountain Bakery, Bob Kelly's Farm, Dutch Desserts, Moon in the Pond Organic Farm and Equinox Farm. Highlawn Farm, undergoing a change in management, will take this year off, and June Wolfe of Wolfe Ridge Farm is switching her role, from managing her stand to managing the market.

New this year is a planned "Young Farmers' Table." Children who raise vegetables, flowers or other farm

products are invited to sell their wares there. The market will also continue setting aside a booth for local community groups to use for sharing information, fund-raising, and recruiting new members. (If you are raising a young farmer or your group would like to take advantage of the free booth, call the market manager, June Wolfe, to reserve space.)

Everyone agrees the market has been a huge success. "The vendors, the customers, and the community all love this market," says June. "We have great programs, quality products and a relaxed, friendly shopping atmosphere."

It's a fun way to shop, and farmers enjoy it too. Ted Dobson, owner of Equinox Farm on Bow Wow Rd., says of the Sheffield Farmers Market, "I like that market. It's a lot of fun and a nice way to end the week." Says Dominic Palumbo, owner of Moon-in-the-Pond Organic Farm on Barnum St., "I like to sell directly to people, to be able to talk with them about my meat, to give them an opportunity to connect to my farm. And besides, I make more money selling directly."

## Making it easy to 'buy local'

Sheffield's Farmers' Market started in 2001 when local farmers, David Whitman, Marcia Friedman, and others active in community life joined forces. With the help of Old Parish Church, the Sign Barn, an anonymous donor and founding vendors like Farm House Bakers and Phoenix Pharm, the market became a reality.

The people who started the market did so for various reasons. Some wanted a gathering place for the community, others wanted to support open space in Sheffield by supporting farmers. Still others wanted to support the local

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### FARMERS' MARKET HOURS

4-7pm every Friday, rain or shine, from Mother's Day weekend (May 9<sup>th</sup>) through Columbus Day weekend (October 10<sup>th</sup>).

On Friday, July 4, the market will open at 1pm and close when it is no longer busy.

## JOIN THE SHEFFIELD TIMES TEAM

Working with the *Sheffield Times* is a great way to meet and reconnect with people & events in your community, and to help keep that community informed. We are currently looking for people to fill two positions:

### ADVERTISING

Enjoy connecting with local business people and organizations!

The position involves managing ad sales and copy, and working with the *Sheffield Times* editors and layout person every other month to get the paper out. We have many loyal advertisers, and most ads are from repeat customers so there is more follow-up and modifications than "new" sales work. The job averages 15 hours of work per issue, every two months. Good organizational skills are important and being comfortable with a computer and simple spreadsheets are helpful, but the most important ingredient is an interest & enthusiasm.

Our current ad guru, Rene Wood, is going back to school (Congratulations Rene!), but will help with the transition. For more information, contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or [renecwood@aol.com](mailto:renecwood@aol.com).

### LAYOUT

Be creative and build your resume!

The position involves laying out the text and ads of each bimonthly issue, working with the editors of the *Sheffield Times*. This includes building new or modifying existing ads. Computer skills and familiarity with PageMaker (or Quark Xpress) are important, but we are willing to train the right individual. An e-mail account is necessary, but we can provide the account if you don't currently have one. We will provide the software and fonts. The time needed to complete each issue will vary with the skills of the applicant and how much of the programs need to be learned. Timing is the two weeks before publication every other month.

For more information contact Kathy Orlando at 229-8789 or [wildkato@aol.com](mailto:wildkato@aol.com) and [sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com](mailto:sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com).

The *Sheffield Times* is a community supported volunteer paper, but there are small honorariums associated with the above as a "Thank You" and in recognition of service to the community.

## SHEFFIELD MILESTONES

Zachariah H. Warner, class of 2004 was named to the Honor Roll of Salisbury School for the winter term. He is the son of Beth Harlan of Sheffield and Scott Warner of Salisbury.

*Is there someone you would like to honor by noting a birth, marriage, death or other significant event? Send us their name and a sentence or two on them, the event or their contribution to Sheffield.*

## Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for  
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.

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### ADVERTISERS WELCOME!

The *Sheffield Times* accepts advertising at its discretion:

- From Sheffield businesses & residents: want ads; items for sale; services offered (landscaping, carpentry, electrical, forestry, typing, babysitting, sewing, etc.); business ads, etc.
- From outside of Sheffield: services, etc., that benefit Sheffield residents.
- No editorial or political ads.

For more information or to place an ad, contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or [renecwood@aol.com](mailto:renecwood@aol.com).

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE  
DEADLINE: June 13

### THANK YOU!

To everyone who has donated since the last issue to help keep the *Sheffield Times* going! To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue.

Ashley Falls Village  
Improvement Society  
Barb's Baked Goods  
Jean A. Fish  
Friends of the Bushnell-  
Sage Library  
Edward Knapp  
Tom Orlando  
Bruce Person  
Ann & Bob Shanks  
Sheffield Land Trust  
Diane & Dave Smith  
John & Katherine Stookey  
Elsie West

Continued from page 1

economy by making it easier for people to “buy local.”

Buying local not only helps local farmers and keeps money in the community, it’s increasingly the key for consumers to be sure they’re buying quality food. Restaurateurs know this, too. Megan Moore,

## BUYING LOCAL—QUALITY FOOD, COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Buying locally grown food is one way a consumer can be sure of getting good-quality food. Local food is fresher, tastes better, lasts longer, and is more nutritious than food that travels long distances. It’s good for the budget, too. Fresher food means less waste. You can buy Equinox Farm lettuce that will keep all week in your refrigerator or Jim Kelly’s apples that keep a month in a cool pantry. Instead of throwing out half a box of Ecuadorian strawberries, you can buy Bob Kelly’s berries and eat them all.

Dominic Palumbo of Moon-in-the-Pond Organic Farm grows beef, lamb, veal, pork, and the hay that feeds them. “My pigs are out of doors as much as possible. During the summer that means they root and get nutrients and food from a very large outdoor area, where they eat bugs and grubs and roots and acorns,” he says. “They’re completely different from pigs raised on concrete floors in their own manure.”

You can find a wider selection of produce, many of them heirloom or unique varieties. Jim Kelly, owner of Woodside Orchards on County Rd. grows 20 varieties of apple trees, 20 kinds of peach trees, and is now introducing pear trees, as well. “We grow fruit for local consumption, so we can produce a number of hard-to-find varieties that are bred strictly for flavor, not grown for uniformity or the thick skin that you need if you’re selling over long distances,” says Kelly. “If you want the unique taste, say, of Gravenstein, Smokehouse, or Sansa apples, or Madison, Salem and Belle of Georgia peaches, you’ve got to get them locally grown because they just can’t

caterer and owner of Moore Fine Foods in Great Barrington, buys locally as often as possible. “The quality is much more controllable, and you can’t beat the service.” (For more ways to buy local, see the box on page 3.)

—June Wolfe with reporting by  
Laurily Epstein

travel,” he adds.

Buying local supports local farmers, who sell directly to individual and retail consumers, and thus make more money for themselves. It also provides jobs for local people, and keeps money in the community, thus helping the regional economy.

Dick Tryon of Lowland Farm in Monterey is a past president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau. “When I was president,” Tryon says, “I realized that the future of agriculture in the Berkshires is small farms—farms of 5 to 6 acres, even 10 to 15 acres. But we can survive only if we have a retail outlet. We can’t sell to supermarkets and make any money. So we need roadside stands and farmers’ markets.” Tryon has been successful selling his winter squash to local restaurants, even having a soup named for his squash at New Marlborough’s Old Inn on the Green.

By supporting local farmers, buying local helps preserve Sheffield’s open space and the rural character that is responsible for much of Sheffield’s tourist-based economy. “People spend their whole lives looking for a place like this—beautiful scenery, good people and a strong economy,” says a locally born resident.

Keeping farmland as farmland also helps the town’s tax base. Studies have repeatedly shown that agricultural land pays more in taxes than it costs towns for services, netting some towns as much as 70 cents for every dollar collected, compared with residential development, which costs towns more in services than it collects in taxes.

Michael Ballon, owner-chef of

## FARMERS’ MARKET FACTS

### Special events

- May 9—Mother’s Day grand opening & craft fair
- June 20—puppet show
- July 4—extended hours
- August 8—craft fair
- September 26—craft fair

Watch for additional events, including monthly chef demonstrations.

### Vendors for the 2003 season

- Barb’s Baked Goods
- Bee Fruitful Apiary
- Berkshire Mountain Bakery
- Bob Kelly’s Farm (produce, bedding plants)
- Cynthia’s Soaps
- Double Decker Farm (flowers, produce)
- Dutch Desserts
- Equinox Farm (salad greens)
- Farm Country Soups
- Farm House Bakers
- Hi-Country Flowers
- Monkshood Nursery
- Moon in the Pond Farm (organic meat, produce)
- My Sister’s Garden
- Phoenix Pharm (hanging baskets, perennials, herbs)
- The Garden Party
- White Birch Flower Farm
- Woodside Orchards

Great Barrington’s Castle Street Cafe, prefers to buy local because “it’s comforting to know where my food comes from. I don’t like to buy anonymous food. My policy is ‘Don’t eat any strangers.’”

Here’s how you can buy local:

◆ Buy food and other farm products straight from the farmer at farmers’ markets and roadside stands. In addition, Equinox, Highlawn and other local farms sell to various area retailers – ask what’s local when you shop.

◆ Eat at restaurants that use locally grown food. Some 60 area restaurants do so. Look for the “Berkshire Grown” sign at the restaurant and ask what’s local on the menu.

—Laurily Epstein

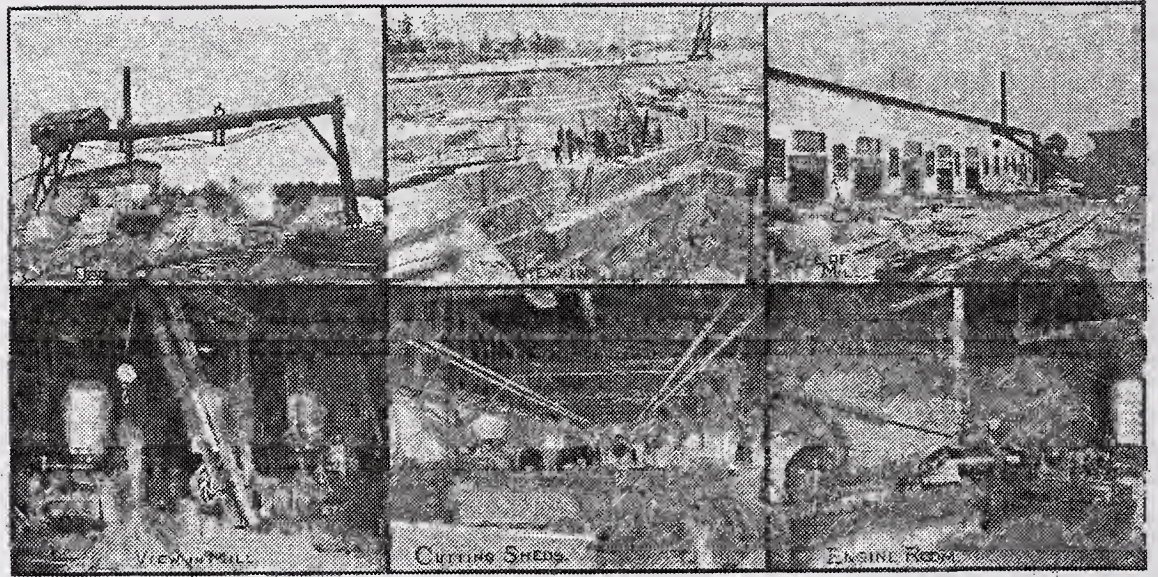
## SHEFFIELD MARBLES

Marble quarrying, whether for lime production or building material, is an ancient Sheffield practice dating almost to the town's settlement in the early 1720s. The activity has left much physical evidence scattered across the countryside, most notable in abandoned quarries, derelict lime-kilns, and structures where marble was used in the architecture or where quarrymen and their families lived. A look at these artifacts and local archives serves up rich insights into many aspects of local history.

Lime, used in making plaster and in agriculture to sweeten the soil, was first produced in home kilns for use within two or three miles of where it was processed. In these primitive kilns, the stone was heated to a very high temperature, driving out the carbonic acid and leaving dry, white, granular lime in its place. In order to avoid a contaminated product, the purest marble was preferred for this procedure. Production of lime for use outside Berkshire County likely dates from the early 1840s, coinciding with the arrival of the Housatonic Railroad.

The largest company engaged in lime production in Sheffield was the A. and M. Barnes enterprise on Lime Kiln Rd., established in 1903. By December of that year, Barnes was producing 70 barrels of lime per day. A second kiln was in place by 1906 and a third by 1909.

In 1904 the prospering company built a private electric railroad that also served a second company, the nearby Goodale marble quarries, connecting both enterprises to the Housatonic line at the Marble Turn-out (the junction today of Route 7 and Egremont Road), a distance of about 5,800 feet. The survey for the narrow-gauge line was done by J. W. Curtiss & Son, civil engineers and surveyors of Great Barrington, and the electricity supplied by a 30-horse gasoline-powered generator. By 1926 Barnes had five kilns and owned 13 houses to quarter its workers. A sixth



Ashley Falls Marble Company's Works, Ashley Falls, Mass.

kiln, a rotary, was added in 1929. The following year, the business was acquired by United States Gypsum of Chicago. Long abandoned, its ruins are evident today near the junction of West Sheffield and Lime Kiln roads.

### Marble for buildings

Like lime production, the quarrying of marble for building purposes originated as a cottage industry, with the stone used locally, often limited to important or expensive buildings. An 18th century example is the Congregational meeting house, with the Old Stone Store and Town Hall serving as examples from the 19th century. All three structures are located on the Sheffield Green, with their marble doorsteps, doorstones and foundation facings easily seen. There are many other uses of marble scattered throughout town, with foundations of private homes being the most common examples. Only two Sheffield buildings of marble construction are known. One was the elegant three-story Marble Mill, since destroyed by fire. It was built circa 1847 on the Mill Pond by the Ensign family and operated initially as a paper mill by Doten, Mansfield & Root. The other is a spring house still visible from Egremont Road, where it bridges Hubbard Brook.

Possibly the earliest commercial quarry of significant size was the Kellogg operation that opened in 1804 along a section of The 12th Massachusetts Turnpike that is now known as the Egremont Road. It was started by Ephraim Kellogg and John

Adamson of Sheffield, John Watson, who had lived locally for a time, and Silas Roe of Amenia, NY. A later investor was Andrew Dexter Jr. of Boston. The quarry employed 10 to 15 men, the number fluctuating according to the amount of marble under contract since the stone was never stored in anticipation of sale but quarried only after an order had been received. This operation boasted not only a water-powered sawmill to produce rough-cut blocks but also a finishing mill where marble was carved according to architectural specifications. Thus, products from this mill arrived at construction sites ready for incorporation directly into building projects.

Later in the 19th and into the 20th Century, the largest operation in Sheffield was the Chester Goodale quarries. This complex was located near the earlier Kellogg works, about three miles north of Sheffield village between Egremont Rd. and West Sheffield Rd. north of their junctions with Rebellion Rd. Chester Goodale worked five quarries in that area. This operation also included a sawmill and finishing mill. Goodale's marble went into St. Peter's Church and Searles Castle in Great Barrington and the Berkshire County Court House in Pittsfield. It supplied stone for Connecticut's state capitol and the interior of Boston's Customs House and the courthouse in Baltimore and Girard College in Philadelphia. Goodale's capital investment by 1853 was \$25,000 and his sales for that year \$8,000. In 1904 marble for the

Shays' Rebellion marker came from these works. Its carver was quarry superintendent James Tully of Rutland, VT.

According to a local newspaper, Goodale marble was among the finest in the world, with a very desirable white color. In thin pieces it was translucent. In order to meet demand, four steam-powered engines of 125, 100, 60 and 35 horse power kept two channellers and four gadders constantly busy and, during heavy demand, 50 workmen were employed to get out an average of six carloads daily, much of it carved to custom specifications.

The working conditions and pay of stonecutters, who were frequently ethnic Irish or Italian, can be only generally determined, but it is certain that employment was sporadic, the pay low and the quarries dangerous. One newspaper reported, "An Irishman by the name of Bartlett was so severely injured by a premature blast at Hutchinson's Quarry in Sheffield on Monday last that his life is despaired of." And in a later issue of the same paper, in an article headed *His Face Crushed In*, it was reported that "Death, in a strange form, came to Andrew Rock, aged 35 years [sic: he was 25 years old, son of John and Nora Cosgriff Rock], an employee at the Rice quarry, in Sheffield. Rock was working near one of the guy ropes which held up the huge crane used in the quarry, when suddenly the rope parted with a loud report. One end struck Rock on the back of his skull, and threw him violently forward, his face striking on a piece of iron pipe with such force as to drive the bones about his nose

deep into the skull, killing him instantly." Bartlett and Rock had received pay of about \$2 to \$2.50 per day when work was available.

### Marble for monuments

A smaller 19th century quarry and workshop were located on the north side of Berkshire School Rd. about one-quarter mile east of Route 41. Eventually it came under the management of John R. Briggs and was especially active in the years following the Civil War, when it produced 100,000 pieces at the rate of 9,000 per month for soldiers' graves, at \$2.65 each.

In 1880 that quarry provided 37 blocks for the Washington Monument. Sheffield marble covers an area six feet high and is visible today on the north side between 150 and 156 feet of the 555-foot structure. Briggs' original contract called for 12,000 cubic feet of material, but the company failed to make timely deliveries and when the marble did arrive it was often the wrong dimension and color. As a result, the contract was summarily annulled by the government. The Sheffield marble, 91 1/2 tons in all, was less than 10 percent of what was contracted.

This quarry also supplied the marble for the Tweed Courthouse in Manhattan, and as recently as 2001 additional stone (quarried long ago and scattered about the property) was used for that building's restoration. According to Great Barrington historian Bernard A. Drew, Briggs, in a typical Tweed business deal, had supplied the original material at confiscatory prices.

The Ashley Falls quarry opened in 1876. In 1898 it was leased to W. D. Chamberlin of Dayton, OH, who had had a core drilled to a depth of 100 feet. Finding an adequate supply of marble he organized the Ashley Falls Marble Company under New Jersey law with himself as president. Capital stock was fixed at \$200,000 and the following year a finishing mill was erected. By 1906 the plant employed 60 to 80 men and operated day and night. Some of the buildings constructed of Ashley Falls marble were the Sheffield High School (now the library), the city mausoleum of Columbus, OH; the Dayton Y.M.C.A.; the Masonic Temple of Rochester, NY; the Swedish Lutheran Church and the Polish School in New Britain, CT; and the Bristol Trust Company in Connecticut. In addition, many carloads of interior marble were shipped to New York City.

The Ashley Falls quarry was purchased by Frank P. Smith in 1912 and he turned it over to two of his three sons, Donald U. and Frederick A. Today, the quarry flooded, its many buildings, railroad siding and heavy equipment gone, the restored, bucolic site is the property of Mr. and Mrs. Brady Brown.

Only a few of Sheffield's quarries, kilns and related marble artifacts are mentioned here. But a bit of research and a trained eye yield a trove of insights about an industry that touches the story of local agriculture, architecture, employment, ethnicity and social and economic conditions for a 200-year period of the town's history.

—James R. Miller

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## VIRGINIA DRURY: A GREAT LADY OF SHEFFIELD

Her speech has slowed and her voice quavers when she talks. Her vision is poor and she walks haltingly. But when Virginia Drury begins to tell a story, her mind is clear and focused and her blue eyes twinkle as she begins relating events from her past. She laughs as she mingles anecdotes with history and lovingly recalls her life with her late husband, Roger.

Virginia lived in Sheffield from 1946 until just a few months ago when she moved in with her son and daughter-in-law in Canaan, CT, while awaiting the completion of an assisted living facility. For more than 56 years she has been an active and beloved member of the Sheffield community. Friends describe her as a woman who brings out the best in people. She and her husband gave a priceless gift to the town by donating some of their land to The Nature Conservancy, which established a nature trail on it named in their honor. The Drury Trail is a fitting symbol of Virginia's life long commitment to the environment, social justice, and peace.

Virginia Jenney was born in 1916 in Montana. After living briefly in

the Andes Mountains of Chile, where her father worked for a mining company, her family moved to Weston, Mass, outside of Boston. She remembers a happy childhood, surrounded by people she loved. She got her RN degree from Pennsylvania Hospital, although she says now she wasn't really suited for nursing. But she met her husband Roger when she signed on as nurse for a Quaker forestry camp in Coopers-town, NY, in 1940.

"I fell in love with him right away," Virginia recalled. "He was a tall, handsome and capable man, though some people called him the homeliest handsome man they ever saw. One day I heard that he was going off to start another camp. I was in the kitchen crying when he came in to say good-bye and promised to write to me. A few weeks later, Roger came back and brought me a gift. He had carved an imaginary bird for me out of chocolate-colored wood. He called the bird 'Zest.' Then he asked me to marry him. That bird was my engagement ring!"

Virginia held the bird in her hands. It is small and brown and glows from being touched and rubbed for more than 60 years. She prizes it more than any diamond.

Virginia and Roger were married in September 1941. When the war broke out that December, Roger, whose father was an Episcopal priest and the headmaster of St. Paul's School in New Hampshire, declared himself a conscientious objector and did alternative service during the war at the Pennsylvania State Mental Hospital. Virginia moved to Milton, Mass., to live with Roger's mother. It was there that their first child, Tom, was born.

Near the end of the war, Virginia and Roger decided that they wanted to live on a farm. Roger had skied in the Berkshires so they agreed they



Virginia Drury has been an integral part of the community for over half a century.

would look for a farm in western Massachusetts.

"Now remember," Virginia said, "neither of us had ever lived on a farm, nor done any farming. Roger had never held a hammer in his hands. After finishing Harvard, he had worked as a reporter for the New York Herald Tribune. But we were determined to make a go of it."

A real estate agent showed them an old farmhouse and barn on 80 acres at 208 (now 816) Barnum St. It had been on the market for two years and had no running water or electricity. Roger loved it and decided to buy it before he even went into the house.

"We bought that farm for \$5,500 in 1944. We later found out that that part of Barnum St. was considered the wrong side of the tracks. It was woody and dark and nobody wanted to live there at that time. We didn't move in until 1946. By then our second son, Geoff, had been born so I was really happy when we got water and electricity in the house."

Life on the farm was harder than either of them had expected. Roger worked both on his own farm and for another farmer to earn extra cash. After they bought a cow—and Roger took milking lessons—Virginia sent to Sears Roebuck for equipment to make butter and cottage cheese and started selling home-made butter and cottage cheese to her neighbors. Their family grew—Dan and Julie were the last two additions—but their farming abilities did not.



Virginia's bronze of Geoff & Julie

Virginia laughed as she talked about their attempts at farming. "Roger realized that he wasn't cut out to be a farmer. He had developed an ulcer and knew he had to find some other way to earn a living. He then took up writing full time and wrote a biography of his father, two children's books and became the editor of the St. Paul's alumni magazine. We both also became active in Sheffield life."

### A civic life

In 1972, Virginia helped start the Sheffield Historical Society. She had been interested in the history of the town she had lived in for more than 25 years and wanted to preserve some of its buildings and character. In the late 1980s she served as its president.

"What I'm good at," Virginia confided, "is working with people and getting the best out of them. I didn't know much about history, but I liked people—and food—so I think I was a pretty good president. Roger and I were also there at the inception of the Sheffield Land Trust. And yes, I also brought the food for our functions."

Her recipes are legendary. Whether it was a bake sale, a potluck dinner, or her famous popovers, friends say that whatever Virginia made was always eaten first.

But when Virginia was 56 years old she decided she wanted to create something besides good food. She decided to learn sculpture. She took lessons in Lenox from Franc Epping, "a good sculptor but a great teacher." Sculpture became one of her passions. She worked in wood, stone, and plaster, a few of which were later cast in bronze. She kept some of her work and sold some, but she admits "I regret everything that I sold. I'm much happier knowing that my children and friends have my work."

Her interest in art led her to the Sheffield Art League, and at one point she served as its president. Until recently, her work had never

been formally exhibited. This past March, however, just after her 87th birthday, Virginia had the first public showing of one of her sculptures at Noble Horizons in Connecticut. An Exhibition in Honor of Virginia Drury included paintings and one other sculpture by members of the Sheffield Art League. The focal piece was Virginia's 46-inch bronze of her son and daughter entitled Geoff and Julie, 1998.

### Stewards of the land

In the early 1980s, when the Drurys were having some of their land cleared after a storm, Roger realized that the clearing, a bit closer to town than their old farmhouse, would be a perfect setting for a house. "We couldn't do a complete solar house here in Western Massachusetts, but we tried to use the sun's energy as much as possible. I was always concerned about the environment," Virginia continued, "and I wanted a house that reflected that concern. The house was finally ready for us in 1985 and I lived in it till just a few months ago."

Around the time Virginia and Roger were building their new house, they heard the sound of trees being cut down on an adjacent piece of property. "These were really old oaks and cherries -Roger just didn't want them cut down. So we inquired about buying that land," Virginia recalled.

To save six acres worth of trees, they ended up buying all their neighbor's land -more than 90 acres. They later donated 56 acres of it to The Nature Conservancy. This was the beginning of the natural treasure that the Conservancy acquired around the Schenob Brook and that now totals more than 1,000 acres.

"I didn't realize how special the land was until I donated it," Virginia said. "I got the idea after Roger and I visited an island off the coast of Maine that had been donated to The Nature Conservancy. I was always interested in our natural heritage and I wanted this piece of land preserved. So we called them

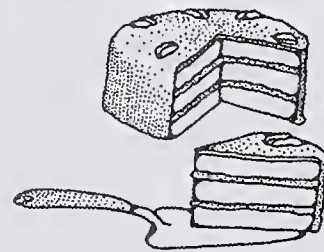
and got them involved in Sheffield."

Virginia, widowed in 1996, continues her involvement in Sheffield with good humor and a love of life. Though she can't drive by herself and lives elsewhere, her many friends bring her to parties and art exhibits and Land Trust or Historical Society events. She no longer brings her famous little sandwiches, but she brings wit and charm, and there are always people around her, eager to say hello and fill her in on the latest Sheffield happenings. She holds her "salon" at the Sunrise Diner, where she often meets her friends for breakfast.

"I'm very lucky," she said, smiling. "I have had a good life. I have four wonderful children and seven grandchildren and I'm proud of them all. But they have their own lives and it wasn't right for me to go on living alone. I'll meet new friends. You're a fool if you don't meet up with interesting people!"

—Judith Schumer

## Mother's Day Flower & Gourmet Baked Goods Sale



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Contact: Amy Halberstadter  
229.2283

Sheffield Kid's Club at Old Parish Church is Thursdays, 9am - 12pm, rather than Tuesdays as noted in the March/April issue.

## CRAMPTON TO RETIRE FROM CHRIST CHURCH

For The Rev. Susan H. Crampton, Pentecost Sunday, known to Christians as the birthday of the Church, marks both an end and a beginning. Falling on June 8, it will be her last Sunday as Rector of Christ Church in Sheffield and the beginning of a different kind of life in her permanent home in Williamstown.

Although she doesn't consider herself a trailblazer, Pastor Susan has been a pioneer for women in the Episcopal Church. Speaking of her call to ministry, she confessed to a life-long love for the church, but never thought she would become a priest. That was reserved for men. Nevertheless her interest in religion led her to study theology at Smith College. After graduation, she enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, exploring a degree in Christian education, a common goal for talented, religiously motivated women in the Sixties.

That lasted only a semester. She left Union and married Stuart, now a retired Professor of Physics at Williams College, and became a wife and mother. For 12 years she

raised their three children, but still maintained an active involvement in her local church and, with the active encouragement and support of her rector, enrolled again in seminary—this time the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. She graduated with an MDiv in 1977. But the thought of becoming a priest still "terrified" her. Although the Episcopal Church nationally was ordaining women, there were none in her diocese.

Again, supported by her rector, The Rev. Douglas Bourgoigne, and endorsed by colleagues and professors, she began to look at things differently. It wasn't easy. Pastor Susan recalls vividly her service of ordination, the moment she became a priest. The liturgy of ordination requires that the Bishop ask all those attending "If any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now and make it known."

From the back of the sanctuary a man raised his hand, strode forward and read a formal, written statement why it was not appropriate for a woman, however qualified, to be ordained. The tension was real and palpable, Susan recalls.

The Bishop, however, had tipped her off and reassured her she shouldn't worry. Sure enough the man finished his statement, sat down, there were no more "impedi-

ments or crimes," and the service continued. This time the Bishop's question to the congregation was different. "Is it your will that Susan be ordained a priest?" he asked vigorously. This time there was no dissent. The congregation responded with an enthusiastic and vigorous "It is!" and Susan H. Crampton became the first woman priest ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

When she arrived in Sheffield in 1994, she was also the first clergywoman at Christ Church. That was an issue at the beginning. A couple of people left, she recalls, but others decided to stay and have become very supportive.

Christ Church was in "a recovery mode" at that time. It was a very quiet church. There was no secretary, no church office. Office functions, most meetings and educational events took place in the rectory, where she lived. Clearly there was a need for a parish hall. The subject had first come up 67 years before, in 1927, but had always been postponed. Not surprisingly, a key issue was the expense.

In April 1998, she recalls, it came up again at a meeting of the Vestry. "A new parishioner raised the issue," she recalls. "I wasn't even there. I was attending the birth of a grandchild." "Was this the time to make the commitment?" the parishioner



Rev. Susan Crampton will retire from Christ Church in June.

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had wondered. The answer was "yes," and once it had been made, everything else fell quickly into line. About \$500,000 needed to be secured. That accomplished, "from a combination of income from investments and hard work," the handsome structure next to the Church on Main Street was completed in only nine months, in 2001.

Even though Pastor Susan readily admits that others provided basic leadership for the creation of the Parish Hall, it brings her great joy. She believes that the erection of the parish hall was a key moment in the evolving life of Christ Church. It became "like a new suit of Easter clothes," she says. Taking justifiable pride in what they had created, the 140 parishioners of the Church became even more enthusiastic and motivated, "more centered in Christ."

Pastor Susan has other fond memories of her life and time at Christ Church. Her work with children is foremost. There are 30

children in the parish, including two active children's choirs, directed by Mari Enoch. Pastor Susan believes children belong in church with their families.

She also points to "the fantastic hospitality" of her parishioners. Fresh baked goods are a staple after each worship service, she notes. Parish suppers are a high point.

She will miss the support and collegial relationships she has enjoyed with the other clergy in town, especially The Rev. Arthur Kaufman of Old Parish Church, Pastor Betty LeGeyt of Ashley Falls Methodist Church and Fr. John Lis of our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church. Community events such as the Memorial Day Parade, the annual tree lighting ceremony and the Ceremony of the Way of the Cross, which they lead together, have helped to unite the community, she believes.

But most of all, when she leaves, she will miss her beloved parishioners. "I'm already grieving," she

## AMERICAN LEGION FLAG DRIVE

Sheffield American Legion Post 340 is soliciting donations from town residents for the replacement of the flags that line Main St. There are nine of these 3x5-foot flags. They cost about \$25 each. Please make donations to American Legion Post 340, P.O. Box 784, Sheffield, MA 01257. Note your donation as being for the Flag Fund.

—George A. Oleen

admits, brushing away a tear.

But she is also looking forward to the next chapter in her life. "I'm going to take a year off," she says, "and figure out what I want to do next. But Christ Church and Sheffield will always have a special place in my heart."

—John G. Wightman

## Churches & Services

### ASHLEY FALLS

**Grace Bible** (non-denominational)  
355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

**Trinity Methodist** (United Methodist)  
1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

### SHEFFIELD

**Christ Church** (Episcopal)  
180 Main Street (413) 229-8811  
Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Susan H. Crampton

**Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**  
Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649.  
The public is welcome.

### Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

**Old Parish** (United Church of Christ)  
125 Main Street (413) 229-8173  
Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art Kaufman, Pastor

### Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 5:30pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

### Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street, [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org), (413) 528-0233 Sunday: 8am & 10:45am Morning Worship; 9:30am Sunday school for all ages. Pastor Chet Howes

### GREAT BARRINGTON

**Congregation Ahavath Shalom** (reconstructionist)  
North Street (413) 528-4197 Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

### Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378 Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, As't Rabbi Andrew Klein

### Trinity Lutheran

St. James 352 Main Street (413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

### Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

St. James, 352 Main Street church (413) 528-4850; home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

## MEMORIAL DAY IN ASHLEY FALLS

Ashley Falls' annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society, will start at the village green at 8am on Monday, May 26. Led by bagpiper Eric Goodchild, parade participants will include the Sheffield Fire Department, color guards, Scout troops, the Sheffield Whinnies, and others. All area veterans are invited to march in the parade. This year the organizers are also inviting Ashley Falls' younger residents to decorate their bikes and join the parade. After the ceremony in the Ashley Falls Cemetery, the parade will return to the village green, where refreshments will be served.

Volunteers are welcome! If you would like to help with the parade, contribute to the refreshments, or need other information, call Kathie Ness at 229-3368.

### ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP

The Center for Ecological Technology and the Western MA Master Gardeners Assoc. (WMMGA) are offering a free workshop to seasoned and novice gardeners on "Creating Healthy Gardens and Lawns." The workshop is being held Tuesday, May 13, 1:30-2:30pm, at the Ralph Froio Senior Center, 330 North St., Pittsfield. Participants will learn how to grow healthy and beautiful plants without chemical products. This integrated pest management approach focuses on building healthy soil so that plants are less susceptible to drought, weeds and pests.

WMMGA is a non-profit organization of trained gardeners who have completed a work/study program to receive a Master Gardener Certificate. For more information call the hotline at 413-298-5355 or visit [www.wmassmastergardeners.org](http://www.wmassmastergardeners.org).

For more information on the workshop or to schedule a similar presentation for a group or organization, please contact CET at 413-445-4556 or [joyk@cetonline.org](mailto:joyk@cetonline.org).

## GARDEN SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS

In a tribute, thanks and celebration of Sheffield's librarian, Nancy Hahn, the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage library held a day-long garden symposium on March 22. Gardening is Nancy's passion and she and the Friends are amassing what will be one of Berkshire County's most extensive public collections of gardening books and materials.

Pam Bloodworth, chairman of the event, gathered various gardening experts to give presentations. Cecelia Defarrari offered advice and sold seeds from the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy. Jaime Cahillane, from the Center for Ecological Technology and a Master Gardener, gave the talk on integrated pest management that she will be giving in Pittsfield May 13 (see box this page). Jacqueline Lee Connell, of the Lenox Garden Club, talked about the Archives of American Gardens donated by the Garden Club of America to the Smithsonian. Its images, more than 60,000 with 5,000 gardens from 48 states, with many from Berkshire County, are accessible through the Smithsonian's website.

Elisabeth Carey, the director of education at the Berkshire Botanical Garden, spoke on gardening basics such as soil testing, mulching, and watering. Bruce Howden, owner of Howden Farm, gave a slideshow tour of his "pumpkin patch," actually 40 to 50 acres planted annually of world-renowned pumpkins. Bruce explained how his father, John Howden, developed two patented pumpkin varieties, the Howden and Howden Biggie, by carefully selecting seeds. At the finish of his entertaining lecture, one participant exclaimed, "I will never look at another pumpkin in the same way again!"

The symposium ended with a hands-on demonstration of container gardening by Julie Chamberlain and Pam Bloodworth. After spreading newspapers on the library floor, Julie and Pam drilled drainage holes in a galvanized oval metal pail and arranged scented geraniums, Cuban variegated oregano, sweet potato vine and coleus in the container. They presented the beautiful result as a gift to Nancy and the library.

Following the symposium, a sumptuous potluck supper was served in the library's community room amid tributes to Nancy and the wonderful job she is doing.



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## AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

If you have been postponing a necessary physical exam or you have a health problem that worries you, health-care services are available to residents of Sheffield at the Community Health Center of the Berkshires, Monday through Friday—whether or not you have health insurance. The staff is ready to assist you with health benefit plans if you are income eligible. If you are not eligible for benefit plans, the center can provide health care on a sliding fee scale.

The center is located on the fourth floor of Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. Call 528-8580 for an appointment.

—*Deb Phillips and Dr. Brian Burke,*  
*Health-Care Directors*

## MEETING ON HEALTH CLINIC

A group of doctors and other health-care professionals in South County have been exploring the idea of creating a Volunteers in Medicine free health clinic staffed by retired professional and lay volunteers. The goal would be to provide free medical, dental, and mental health services to the income-qualified uninsured in southern Berkshire County. Staff would work with existing health care providers (Fairview Hospital, the Community Health Center of the Berkshires, Main Street, and others) to improve the health safety net for those who cannot afford healthcare.

The project is currently in the initial stages of inquiry. The first public meeting for all interested parties, with consultant Marge Hamrell from the Volunteers in Medicine Institute, will be on Tues., May 20 at 4pm, in the Robbins Meeting Room, Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. The meeting room has been provided free of charge, courtesy of Wheeler & Taylor.

For more information on Volunteers in Medicine, see [www.vimclinic.org](http://www.vimclinic.org) and [www.vimi.org](http://www.vimi.org).

—*Elaine and Fred Panitz*



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## MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND BENEFIT

A sale of roses for Mother's Day bouquets and of chocolate-dipped strawberries, cookies, real pound cake, and other baked goods is planned for Mother's Day weekend to benefit several Sheffield causes. The sale, organized by Amy Halberstadter, will take place at Gulotta's Mobil Station. It will raise money to kick off several new funds: a fund for renewing the gardens at Town Hall; a "fresh flower fund" for the Bushnell-Sage Library and Sheffield and Great Barrington Senior Centers and a fund to buy equipment for the Sheffield girls softball team. Baked goods are being provided by Amy and Andy Cote of Rolling In Dough, a new Sheffield custom bakery that is donating its labor to these causes.

For more information on each of the funds or on the sale, call Amy at 229-2283.

## SENIOR CENTER BBQ, TRIP, PICNIC

**Barbecue.** The popular barbershop group that has been a big hit throughout the region, Page Four, will sing for the Senior Center's supper on Thurs., May 22. The supper will be a barbecue at Dewey Hall put on by the Council on Aging in place of its customary gift of a Christmas luncheon. The supper starts at 5:30.

**Trip.** The next senior trip, on Mon., June 9, will travel to the legendary Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, for a luncheon that will feature regional Italian dishes. After lunch the group will visit Boscobel, an opulent federal mansion built in 1804 by Morris Dykeman, a scion of one of the earliest Dutch families. Boscobel barely escaped the wrecker's ball in 1950, but it was moved, restored, and now can be seen with its commanding views of the Hudson River. The cost of the trip is \$69, which should be paid by May 16. Meet the bus at 9:30 in front of Dewey Hall.

**Picnic.** Sheffield Seniors are the hosts this year for the annual picnic shared with Alford and Egremont. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. People whose names begin with A through M are encouraged to bring salads and main dishes, and those whose names begin with N through Z bring desserts. Noon, Thurs., June 19, in the Sheffield Town Park.

## Ashley Falls Improvement Society's Annual Meeting

Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm  
at the Trinity Church Parish Hall

Don't forget the  
Memorial Day Parade on May 26  
Starting at the Post Office at 8:00am

The Society funds both the Memorial Day Parade  
and the Holiday Tree Lighting  
from donations and from money made  
at the Fair on the Green in September  
If you enjoy our events *Come and get involved!*

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Reports available for comment and review. Ted Brovitz, the Town's consultant, has been preparing reports on Sheffield's "baseline conditions", based on town, state and federal data, as well as public meetings, surveys and interviews. The reports on population and housing; economic development; and transportation have been released and are currently under review by the subcommittees and any interested citizens. Still to come: the reports on natural resources and open space; municipal services; and land use. The aim is for revised versions of these baseline reports to be presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee with recommendations by the end of June.

These reports, as well as the results of the community survey, workshop reports, a Route 7 intersection analysis, and the Sheffield Map series, are available for public review and comment at the Town Hall and the Bushnell-Sage Library. Most of this information is also available on the master plan website, [www.dufresne-henry.com/Sheffield](http://www.dufresne-henry.com/Sheffield).

**Subcommittees meet and discuss issues.** Master Plan subcommittees are collecting information, raising issues, and discussing their findings.

Each subcommittee has been reviewing and correcting the maps and reports that document existing condi-

tions in their topic area

The Economic Development Subcommittee has been meeting every other Monday and held a Business Forum in Dewey Hall on April 2 to seek input from Sheffield's business community. About 35 people attended. The subcommittee is looking at ways to maintain and enhance Sheffield's diverse economy and build off Berkshire County's reputation as a cultural resort, among other guiding principles. It's now focusing on "field trips" to places such as Sheffield's Business Park, interviewing business leaders, and formulating recommendations.

The Land Use and Recreation Subcommittee has "sub-subcommittees" exploring topics from recreational trails in Sheffield to defining "rural character" that public meeting, survey and subcommittee participants have identified as key to Sheffield. These included open, farmed fields; unbroken woodlands; clear ridge lines; dirt roads; wetlands; and a balance of land/structures. The subcommittee will begin meeting again in mid-May, once base reports on land use, open space and recreation are completed for review.

The Facilities, Service and Transportation subcommittee has been reviewing an inventory of town facilities and services and started discussing related issues. At its most recent meeting, the baseline report on Transportation was reviewed and corrected.

The Housing subcommittee is looking for residents interested in exploring the issue of keeping housing affordable and helping to formulate recommendations for future housing growth.

Input, representing all points of view, is needed and welcomed. Anyone interested in attending a meeting of any subcommittee should contact the subcommittee chair, as noted in the box at right. Any comments or issues should be sent to Ted Brovitz, project manager for the Sheffield Master Plan consultants Dufresne-Henry, as noted in box p. 13, and to Kathy Orlando, Steering Committee Chair, at 229-8789 or wildkato@aol.com.



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### SAVE THE DATE

*The Sheffield Historical Society's  
Annual Garden Party*



**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL  
229-2694.**

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS & CONTACTS

Join or bring ideas and issues to a subcommittees' attention without becoming a member. Contact the chair of the subcommittee or Ted Brovitz as listed below or c/o Town Hall, P.O. Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257.

### ◆ Economic development.

Co-chairs: Don Ward (229-9023) and Sharon Gregory (229-2717 or sharongregory1@cs.com). Next meeting: Mon., May 12, 7-9pm in Town Hall first floor meeting room. The tentative schedule is to meet every other Monday evening.

◆ Land use, open space & recreation. Chair: Allison Lassoe. (lassoe@worldnet.att.net or 229-8839). Call for next meeting date.

◆ Housing. Chair: David West (229-7727). Call for next meeting date.

◆ Facilities, services & transportation. Anna James (229-3096 or arjames@bcn.net). Call for next meeting date.

Ted Brovitz, the project manager for the town consultants, will be attending most subcommittee meetings. He can be reached at tbrovitz@dufresnehenry.com or 617-426-9716. He will also be available at Sheffield Town Hall after noon on May 12 and on additional dates.

Check the Master Plan web site for the latest: [www.dufresnehenry.com/Sheffield](http://www.dufresnehenry.com/Sheffield).

## HELP SURVEY THE HOUSATONIC

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30-8pm, at Dewey Hall, the Housatonic Valley Association will hold a training for anyone interested in becoming a Stream Team volunteer. Volunteers will learn how to conduct a shoreline survey, to be completed in the next two months. They will learn to spot erosion and identify types of habitat based on vegetation and shoreline conditions, and to document outlet pipes, invasive species and areas which require clean-up. "It's a great way to get to know the river!", says Berkshire Program Director Dennis Regan. Call (413) 394-9796 for details.

## LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 28th the Sheffield Land Trust will hold its Annual Meeting and pot-luck lunch at Balsam Hill Farm on Hewins St. 10am bike, farm tour and kids activities. 12:30pm lunch and meeting. Come hear about the protection of this historic farm. Look for details in the local papers in June.

## FAMILY NETWORK EVENTS SAMPLER

**Playgroups.** We continue to invite families with children aged birth-5 years to attend the two playgroups held in Sheffield. On Thursdays, the parent-child playgroup is held at the Christ Church from 9am-noon. Please use the back entrance to attend the playgroup, held downstairs.

Tuesdays, the playgroup is held at the Grace Bible Church. Families are invited to all activities. **Toddler playgroup.** A toddler playgroup meets regularly on Mondays, 9:30-11:30am at the Family Center, 940 South Main St, Great Barrington.

Regular playgroups will end the week of June 9, pending funding from the Dept. of Education.

There are many more activities each month than are listed below. Please call the Family Center at 528-0721 to receive a free complete calendar. All activities are held at

the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington unless otherwise stated. All activities are free to families with children birth-5 years, unless otherwise noted.

Please call to register for activities. **Special Events.** Call to register.

5/14, Wednesday, Mother Baby Exercise & Baby Massage led by Vicky Guy, LPTA. 1pm

5/20-6/24. Tuesdays, Siblings without Rivalry parent discussion class. Childcare provided. 6-7:30pm.

5/24, Saturday, Father-child playgroup. 10am-noon.

5/31, Saturday, Hike Bartholomew's Cobble. Children, free; Adults, \$4. 10:30am.

6/7, Multicultural picnic.

6/9, CRR in Spanish.

6/12, LaLeche League Toddler Group meeting. Call Kim Kaufman 528-2763, 12:45-1:45pm.

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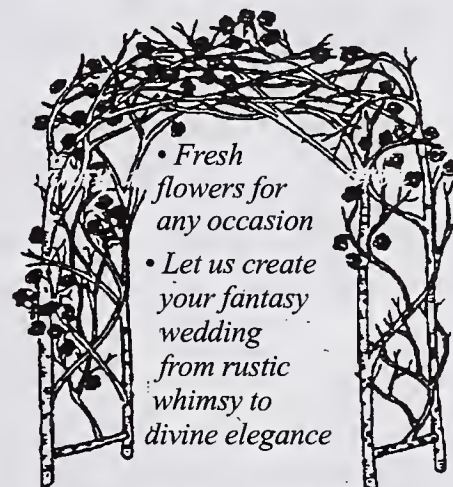
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## SPRING CLEANING?

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Sheffield residents can bring used motor oil and oil-based paints Saturdays in May & June:

May 10, 9-11am, Otis Transfer Station  
May 17, 9-11am, Lenox Dept. of Public works,  
June 6, 9am to noon, Lee Dept. of Public Works  
No latex paint is accepted at these collections.

Get rid of household hazardous wastes.

Saturday, June 7, 9am-12noon at the Lee Department of Public Works.

Both programs require pre-registration. For more information and to pre-register, contact Jamie Cahillane at the Center for Ecological Technology, 1-800-238-1221 or email [jamiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiec@cetonline.org).

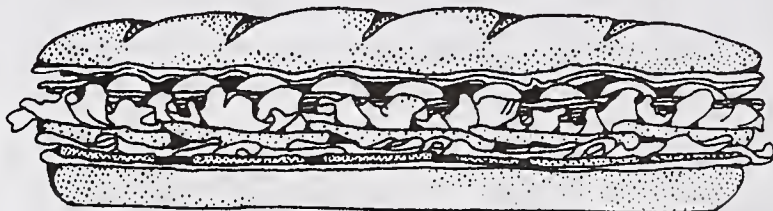
Get rid of bulky waste.

Bulky waste disposal will be held at the Sheffield Transfer Station May 16-18 during regular Transfer Station hours. Be sure to stop by Town Hall to pick up your special permit for bulky waste disposal before the 16th, to take advantage of this opportunity.

## Sheffield Marketplace

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## ASHLEY FALLS VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

### MAY MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the AFVIS will be held on Fri., May 16, starting at 7:30pm. Old and new business, including the election of officers, will be conducted. Among the items of concern are the proposed amendments to the mining by-laws, and the spraying of pesticides along the railroad's right of way.

## ASHLEY FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

### GRAVEL REMOVAL HEARING

At a Public Hearing held on April 28 regarding the application for gravel excavation in Ashley Falls, the Board of Selectmen voted for a continuance of said hearing to be reconvened on May 19 at 7pm.

Anyone interested in learning more about this issue should plan on attending the meeting. A copy of the application can be viewed at Town Hall.

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

### TAX BILLS TO BE MAILED

Preliminary real estate tax bills for Fiscal 2004 will be mailed the first week in June.

## Farmers' of Sheffield Market

**Fridays**  
**4 to 7**  
*center*  
*of town*

**Opening May 9 —**  
**Mothers' Day Weekend**

**Special Events:**  
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Specialty Foods  
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# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PROM & GRADUATION SEASON SAFETY GRANT

Thanks to a Governor's Highway Safety Bureau grant, the Sheffield Police Department will expand its undercover work to enforce the Massachusetts Liquor Laws, with an emphasis on reducing underage drinking and impaired driving and increasing seatbelt use during the prom and graduation season.

"The Sheffield Police Department is committed to using the GHSB grant funds to make this prom and graduation season safer for our community," said Chief James M. McGarry. "Parents and other caregivers can help us protect our young people during this high-risk period by talking to them about the legal consequences and dangers of underage drinking and impaired driving."

The grant is one of 34 awarded by the GHSB as part of its 2003 Safe Prom/Graduation campaign. As part of the program, juniors and seniors at the high school will see

Mothers Against Drunk Driving's *Fake ID*, a multimedia presentation that helps students gain confidence in handling social pressures to experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Surveys will be conducted before and after various grant-funded activities to determine the activities' impact on safety-belt use.

Historically in Massachusetts, the largest number of teen motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries occur on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in May. Major causes of teen crashes include speeding and distracted and impaired driving, with the results of these crashes made worse by low safety belt use. Teen safety-belt use in Massachusetts was only 50% in 2002.

For more on efforts to reduce impaired driving and underage drinking, as well as the Safe Prom/graduation 2003 Campaign, go to [www.mass.gov/ghsb](http://www.mass.gov/ghsb).

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOG	
-John Ullrich, Chief	
2/15	- Alarm at Berkshire School, alarm time: 1:32pm, in service: 2:20pm
2/16	- Chimney fire, alarm time: 3:35pm; in service: 5:02pm
2/21	- Electrical fire, alarm time: 11:30am; in service: 12:30pm
2/23	- Medical Assistance, alarm time: 9:27am; in service: 10:28am
3/3	- Search for missing aircraft, alarm time: 3:00am; in service: 4:43am
3/3	- Mutual aid, aircraft victim rescue, alarm time: 1:00pm; in service: 7:50pm
3/4	- Aircraft recovery, alarm time: 11:00am; in service: 4:10pm
3/13	- Alarm at Kolburne School, alarm time: 3:23pm; in service: 3:26pm
3/14	- Alarm at Berkshire School, alarm time: 3:40pm; in service: 4:09pm
3/26	- Mutual aid, Great Barrington structure fire, alarm time: 7:15pm; in service: 10:16pm
3/29	- Injured hiker in Sages Ravine, alarm Time: 2:04pm; in service: 4:16pm

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**Children under 17 and Pets are Free!**

# Save the Date!

The Sheffield Land Trust's Annual Meeting will take place Saturday, June 28 at the recently-conserved Balsam Hill Farm.  
 Activities: 10 - 12  
 Potluck lunch & meeting: 12:30

*Please look for details in the Shoppers' Guide closer to the event.*



## TOWN CLERK

If you have not answered your annual census or have not received one, please call the board of registrars or the Town Clerk right away.

Office hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 4pm. Telephone: 229-8752

### FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

My last day of employment as Town Clerk for the Town of Sheffield will be May 20, 2003. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens in this town for the opportunity of serving you and for your making my tenure as Town Clerk such a pleasant and satisfying experience. I am very confident that Felecie O. Joyce, whom the Board of Selectmen have appointed, will serve you well as the new Town Clerk. I wish you all good health and happiness.

--Helen E. Johnston, Town Clerk

## PLANNING BOARD

### POSTPONE TOWN VOTE

At its April 22 meeting the Planning Board reviewed the results of the hearing held April 1 regarding making two changes to Sheffield's Mining and Excavation Rules and Regulations. On a 4 to 1 vote, with Board member Downie voting 'no', the Board agreed to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to remove the following proposed changes from the upcoming Town Warrant, pending further discussion:

1. To see if the Town of Sheffield will vote to adopt the following change to the Town of Sheffield Zoning By-Laws:

In Article 1: General Provisions; Section 1.7: Repealer: Delete the phrase..."and the Sheffield Earth Removal By-Law(adopted May 6, 991)". The purpose of the proposed change to the Town Zoning By-Laws

would have been to remove the Sheffield Earth Removal By-Law (adopted May 6, 1991) from the Zoning By-Laws "exceptions".

2. To see if the Town of Sheffield will vote to adopt the following change to the Town of Sheffield By-Laws, Chapter 102: Excavations:

To Section 102-1: add a second sentence: "The only excavation/earth removal uses which are permitted are those which were in operation on May 6, 1991 and which have not been abandoned or discontinued for a period of two years".

The purpose of this proposed change to the Town By-Laws would have been to prohibit earth and gravel excavation/removals, except exempt operations as stated above.

A copy of the minutes of the hearings and Board meeting review will be on file at the Town Clerk's office for public review.



## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

Hear 200 voices, soloists, and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in the Rovensky Concert Shed at Berkshire School

**Saturday, July 12 at 8:00 p.m.**

Gala Opening Night Concert: Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*  
Conductor: Dennis Keene, New York's Voices of Ascension

**Saturday, July 19 at 8:00 p.m.**

Haydn - *Lord Nelson Mass*; Walton - *Belshazzar's Feast*  
Conductor: John Alexander, Pacific Chorale

**Saturday, July 26 at 8:00 p.m.**

Barber - *Prayers of Kierkegaard*  
Vaughan Williams, *A Sea Symphony*  
Conductor: Robert Page, Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

**Saturday, August 2 at 8:00 p.m.**

Bach - *St. Matthew Passion* (in German)  
Conductor: David Hill, Bach Choir of London

**Saturday, August 9 at 8:00 p.m.**

Bach - *Cantata BWV 79*  
Mendelssohn - *Lobgesang* (in German)  
Conductor: Brian Kay, Leith Hill Musical Festival (U.K.)

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## HELEN JOHNSTON RETIRES AS TOWN CLERK

On May 20, Helen Johnston will retire as Town Clerk. She started working for the town in 1998 as Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator and was appointed Assistant Town Clerk in the same year. She served in that position until 2000, when she became the Town Clerk.

Helen was born and raised in Sheffield and, apart from a few years in Hartford and eight in Mill River, has lived here all her life. She has had a very varied career. After driving a Sheffield school bus and being a bank teller in Canaan, she joined the clerical department of Custom Extrusion in Sheffield, where she was employed for 21 years, rising to the position of office manager.

It is obvious that Helen enjoys being the Town Clerk. To her, the best part of the job has been the opportunity to work with people, whether they are Sheffield residents, her colleagues at Town Hall or tourists who drop by to get some information.

She certainly sees a lot of people. Some days a seemingly endless flow of visitors poke their heads into her office -- which, not coincidentally, is the first one you come to when you enter town hall. People come to renew a dog license, ask whether a variance or permit is required for a planned building or activity and, if so, where to go to get it, register to vote, inquire about an application form, or simply to say "hello". The Clerk acts as the primary interface between town government and the public, and Helen excels at this. She is invariably cheerful, patient and polite—not always easy, given some of the questions she fields and the occasionally frenetic activity level in her office. Many people are a bit daunted by having to deal with town government, but Helen has been adept at soothing their anxieties ("what can I do for you today, dear?").

The position of the Town Clerk has been called "the hub of the government wheel." Its responsibilities include record keeping and maintenance, the issuance of different types of licenses, handling Federal, State and local elections and helping to manage town meetings. The Clerk registers voters and changes of address, accepts notices of intention to get married, issues marriage licenses and records births and deaths, which

gave Helen an opportunity to see and participate in the milestones of peoples' lives. The Clerk must be thoroughly familiar with a host of intricate and constantly changing local, state and Federal laws, regulations and forms and be able to explain them to residents.

Helen has been disappointed at the low turnout for Town meetings and elections. Last year, only 8 percent of Sheffield's 2,109 registered voters attended the regular Town meeting and only 23 percent voted in the Town election. She feels that the voters should show their support and appreciation for Town officials by participating in these events.

One of Helen's many accomplishments has been to continue and extend the work started by her predecessor, Natalie Funk, on computerizing the town's records and systems. This important process includes digitizing the official archives, which both helps preserve them and improves the ability to access records quickly and efficiently.

Helen and her husband, Richard, will retire simultaneously. They look forward to seeing more of their son's family, including their two grandchildren, and doing some traveling both in this country and abroad.

Helen has put a human face on town government and leaves big shoes to fill. Felecie Joyce, who was appointed Assistant Town Clerk on April 10, will succeed Helen as Clerk on May 21.

—Peter Rowntree

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES**

2/3—Chairman Janet Stanton asked for moments of silence for Maureen Snyder, Assistant Town Clerk, and the seven astronauts on Spaceship Columbia.

At the request of Richard Cappadona, the electric inspector, the Board approved a fee increase from \$35 to \$40 per visit. The Board ordered the removal from the Town of a dog that had interfered with a police officer's attempt to reach the second floor of a house in Berkshire Lake Estates on November 2, 2002.

Administrator Bob Weitz reported that the recycling agreement with Roger Trucking had started for a trial period and that the positions of the paper and garbage containers at the transfer station have been swapped to make the process easier. Also, Roger Trucking will clean out the area under the compactors every time they are pulled out.

2/24—Sue and Bob McVeety sent a letter requesting a conservation restriction on their land on Kelsey and Foley Rds. Chairman Stanton will try to contact them to discuss their request. There was a discussion of issues concerning the Building Inspector and the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was agreed that there would be an effort to provide education sessions for those involved in these matters.

The following appointments were made: Donald Wilson as a probationary Transfer Station attendant for a 30-day period; Janet Stanton as a member of the Board of Health. Helen Johnston submitted her resignation as Town Clerk effective as of May 20. The Board agreed that it had been very fortunate to have had her services.

The Board approved a curb cut permit for Oliver Palma on Boardman St., subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. The Board approved an insurance settlement for a Highway Dept. truck lost in a fire and reviewed an MIIA video as part of the insurance loss control program. The Board discussed ways to cover the cost of professional assistance in the Board's review of gravel permit applications and approved a permit fee of \$2,000 plus \$200 per acre over 5 acres.

The Board went into executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues.

3/3—The Animal Inspector, Dick Boardman, updated the Board on fences and loose animals. A discussion ensued about electric fences and how they were inappropriate for large animals and possible by-law amendments to resolve some problems.

Robert Kilmer was present to answer questions regarding the cost of agricultural vocational training for two children and issues relating to the Town's

ability to recover the cost of such training were the children to attend the Housatonic Valley Regional School in Connecticut rather than the local school [which does not have an equivalent program]. The Board suggested that further discussions be held and that the families involved report back to the Board.

The Board went into executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues.

3/17—Berkshire Housing Development Corp. had sent a letter regarding an arrangement under which a grant from the State Department of Housing and Community Development will be sought to finance the proposed new Senior Center. The Board approved the preparation of a grant request by BHDC and the utilization of a small cities community development program funds for the design and planning of the senior center.

Administrator Weitz summarized a letter from National Grid informing the Town that the Massachusetts Electric Company had scheduled "vegetation management treatments" on its rights of way through the Town. The Board asked that a copy of the letter be posted in the Town Clerk's office and the Library. [Copies are still available for those interested.]

The question of finding a successor to Helen Johnston as Town Clerk was discussed. A number of potential applicants missed the application deadline because the Sheffield Time's notice advertising the position was published the day before the deadline. The Board agreed to reopen the application process.

Chairman Stanton said that she has received several compliments regarding the Highway Department's road crew.

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**ART LEAGUE SHOWS AND PROGRAMS**

The Sheffield Art League (SAL) has started an "artist of the month" program in conjunction with Bank North on Main St. in Great Barrington. May's featured painter is South Egremont artist Bonnie Orloff. Orloff uses watercolor, inks and acrylics to create her semi-abstract textural paintings.

June's featured artist is celebrated portraitist Walter J. McTeigue. His oils are in collections from Maine to Florida and New York to California, as well as France. "The study of people has always been one of my greatest joys and most exquisite challenges", says the artist. "Painting a portrait involves not only rendering a person's physical characteristics, but requires the ability to capture a subject's nobility, personality and the spark that makes them human and unique." McTeigue

belongs to the prestigious Portrait Society of America and the American Society of Portrait Painters.

In July, SAL presents its annual juried show and in August its annual members' show at Dewey Hall. The reception for the juried show is set for 4pm, Thurs., July 3.

The Sheffield Art League welcomes artists and art lovers of all levels. As part of its mission to promote the creation of art work and the appreciation of fine arts in the community, it sponsors exhibitions, paint-outs, workshops, lectures, museum trips, and a scholarship program for high-school seniors. For more information on the League, its shows and its programs, call Nancy Goldberger at 274-3809 or check the web site at sheffieldartleague.org

—Linda Arnaud and Debra Deres

**DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**

Thurs., May 20, landscape watercolorist Bill Holland will demonstrate his painting techniques at the Bushnell-Sage Library at 7pm. Bill will also lead a weekend watercolor workshop at the library May 31 and June 1, 10am to 4pm. Reservations required, space is limited to 20. Call 528-1612 for information or reservations.

Sun., June 8, photographer Michel Arnaud will give a lecture and demonstration of how to professionally photograph your own artwork at the Southern Berkshire Community Center, 3-5pm. Michel photographs interiors, portraits, still life and fashion. His work has been in Vogue, Harper's, House & Gardens and several books.

A demonstration and workshop with watercolorist Mel Stabin are scheduled for the end of July.

Demonstrations: free to members; \$5 for nonmembers. Workshops: \$200 for members, \$180 for nonmembers, and require registration; call Hans Heuberger at 528-1612.

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## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL'S NEW SEASON

This season, the Berkshire Choral Festival's 225 singers and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra will perform five concerts in the Rovensky Field House on the Berkshire School campus. The first concert is July 12, with the concert series continuing the next four Saturdays at 8pm.

Drive through the campus of Berkshire School during these five weeks of summer, and you will hear the sound of voices singing masterpieces of the choral-orchestral repertoire. Since its founding 22 years ago by Sheffield resident John Hoyt Stookey, Berkshire Choral Festival has been home to over 6,000 singers from all corners of the globe. This is a unique opportunity for the amateur singer to spend seven days working with a world-renowned conductor, take classes from a professional music staff, and spend time with others who share

the same passion for singing great choral masterpieces.

The Festival has two accredited education programs for young adult musicians. The Apprentice Program is for the professional-track college undergraduate and graduate student. The apprentices, who may be singers, accompanists, or choral conductors, stay in Sheffield for all five weeks of the Festival. The Berkshire Scholar Program is a full scholarship program that gives college undergraduate music students a one-week opportunity to study and rehearse a major choral-orchestral work with an eminent conductor. Two college Ensemble credits are available through the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University for either of these programs.

This year BCF and a BCF alumna from Salisbury, CT, have established three scholarships for local commu-

nity singers. The first recipients are Erica Craft, soprano, and Randy Orzano, counter tenor, from Trinity Church Lime Rock, and John Breasted, tenor, who sings with the Stockbridge Festival Chorus. All three will attend the first week and sing in the Beethoven *Missa Solemnis* concert July 12.

The choristers don't spend every minute of their day rehearsing and taking classes. Afternoons are filled with trips to local museums and galleries, tennis, hiking, canoeing, and antiquing. And Friday evenings you'll find choristers in restaurants throughout the area and attending plays, movies, and other musical events. They also give performances in the community. You might hear them singing Shaker music at Hancock Shaker Village or your favorite hymn in one of the local churches on Sunday morning.

In addition to the five weeks in Sheffield, Berkshire Choral Festival offers one-week programs in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Canterbury, England, and Salzburg, Austria.



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## CHORAL FESTIVAL GIFT TO BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

Berkshire Choral Festival recently gave an unrestricted gift of \$100,000 to Berkshire School. The gift was the fulfillment of a pledge to the school's capital campaign. James A. Grigsby, BCF president and board chairman, and Trudy Weaver Miller, executive director, presented the check to Phillip J. Jarvis, interim head of Berkshire School, and Jeffrey S. Appel, assistant head of school for alumni and development.

Grigsby, who is also president and CEO of Grigsby and Smith, a financial-planning firm in Pittsfield, compared the relationship between the Festival and Berkshire School to that of good friends. BCF has called the campus home since its founding in 1982. In 2001, the Festival completed construction of a new 3,000 square foot building, which serves as the Festival's headquarters.

## ELM WATCH READING AND SLIDE SHOW

Elm Watch, the Great Barrington-based group working to restore the American elm in the Berkshire Taconic region, will host a book reading and slide show for Tom Campanella's "Republic of Shade: New England and the American Elm" on Sat., May 17, at 10am at the Bushnell-Sage Library.

Just released by Yale University Press, "Republic of Shade" traces the history of the American elm in New England and its transformation from a fast-growing weed into a national icon. The book explores the cultural role of the American elm in early New England, the elm's demise with the introduction of Dutch elm disease in the 1930s, and its emerging recovery due to recent scientific advances in both preservation and restoration of elms.

Campanella's slide presentation will feature images from his richly illustrated book, including several photographs taken by Tom Zetterstrom, founding director of Elm Watch. Signed copies of "The

Republic of Shade" will be available for purchase and refreshments served.

In a bittersweet nod to local history, the program at the library takes place near the site of the Big Elm, for many years the largest elm in Massachusetts, whose shading canopy was the gathering place for Sheffield's town meetings. A celebration of that tree in 1846 mobilized the community to plant 1,000 more elms - an effort that is considered to be one of the earliest examples of environmentalism in America.

Campanella is assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Previously a lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Fulbright fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he is the author of "Cities from the Sky: An Aerial Portrait of America."

For more information, call Elm Watch at 266-1062 or the Bushnell-Sage Library at 229-7004.

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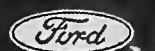
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# organizations & BUSINESSES



Above is one of two "English Moanor" style dorms recently completed and dedicated at Berkshire School. Each two-story building houses 30 female students and three faculty families, and blend a modern sensibility with design references to the traditional character of the campus' oldest buildings. Sheffield resident Bruce Fowle, founder and Senior Principal of Fox and Fowle Architects, led the design team. Fox and Fowle is considered one of the nation's leading sustainable architecture firms, and designed Manhattan's first "green" office tower, the Conde Nast Building in Time Square.

## MASTER GARDENERS, SOIL TESTING

The Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association is offering free soil testing at the Farmer's Market of Sheffield on May 16 and 23 from 4-7pm. They will also be in Great Barrington at the Farmers Market on May 17 and May 24 from 9-12. While testing is free, the association is happy to accept a donation of a dollar per sample.  
—Susan E. Pitman

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## BARRINGTON STAGE'S NEW SEASON

Barrington Stage Company will kick off its ninth season at the Consolati Performing Arts Center with the musical comedy hit *Funny Girl* on its MainStage. The show will run June 25-July 19. Artistic Director Julianne Boyd will direct and Tony Parise, who collaborated with Boyd on *South Pacific* and *On The Twentieth Century*, will choreograph.

Also planned for this summer is Kenneth Lonergan's comedy *Lobby Hero*, July 23-Aug. 2. The production will be directed by Rob Ruggiero, who directed the critically acclaimed production of the show last year at Hartford TheaterWorks, and will feature Ruggiero's original cast: Andrew Benator, Keskhemnu, David Palluck and Nicole Alifante.

The MainStage season will conclude Aug. 7-23 with the world premiere of *The Game*, a musical based on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Choderos de Laclos. Book and lyrics are by Amy Powers and David Topchik, with music by Megan Cavallari. Julianne Boyd will direct.

Barrington Stage's Stage II will be the setting for another world premiere, Mark St. Germain's *Ears On A Beatle*, inspired by transcripts of the FBI's surveillance of John Lennon. That show will run July 2-13, followed by *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute, July 30-Aug. 10.

Barrington Stage's Youth Theater will present *Once Upon A Mattress*, which will play two weeks in Sheffield (July 16-July 27) and two weeks at Springside Park in Pittsfield (July 30-August 10). Edie Cowan, who directed and choreographed last year's *Little Shop Of Horrors*, will direct. The Youth Theatre participants, ages 13 to 18 years old, come from all over the county. They audition in March for the show, and when cast, work under a professional director, choreographer and musical director.

Call the box office, 528-8888, for ticket information, including show discounts and to find out about nursery services available for some MainStage productions.

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## BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE PROGRAMS

All programs meet at the Cobble on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls unless otherwise specified. Unless noted, fees for members are \$3 for adult; child 6-16 free; non-members, \$6 for adult; child \$2. 229-8600 for details.

**Volunteer work parties.** Thursdays, 9am-12pm. Help clear the Cobble of exotic invasive species and have a great time. FREE.

**Spring Wildflower Walk.** Sundays, through May 26, 10am-12pm. Guest Naturalist Arie Tal on May 4. Guided walks through woods famous for wildflowers. Pre-registration required.

**Vernal Pool Life.** Saturdays, through May 31, 10:30am-12pm. We'll look for frogs and salamanders and other fascinating critters that depend on these ephemeral pools. Great fun for kids! Pre-registration required.

**Birding the Cobble.** Sundays, through May 25, 7am. Bird walks with Western Regional Ecologist Jose Garcia or local boy wonder of birding, Kai Reed. Birders of all levels are welcome.

**Natural History Canoe Trip.** Sundays, June through August and July 4, 8:30-11:30am. Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist guide and look for wildlife. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and binoculars. Buy a family membership the day of the tour and get 2 adult tickets for the price of one. Members: adult \$15, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$25, child (10-16) \$15. Pre-registration required.

**Birding the Cobble with Kate Ryan.** Saturday, June 7, 7-9am. Look and listen for songbirds in the many habitats of the Cobble. Bring binoculars. Pre-registration required.

**Ferns of the Cobble.** Sundays, June 22 through July 13, 1:30-3:30pm; with Arie Tal, Sunday, June 15, 10am-1pm. Bartholomew's Cobble is famous for its ferns. Hand-outs and hand lenses provided. Pre-registration required.

**Awesome Insects (for ages 4-7).** Saturday, June 21, 10:30am-12pm. A fun-filled search for beautiful, bountiful insects. Strictly catch and release! Led by a grown-up naturalist with a child-like mind. Wear long pants and socks. Members: \$3. Nonmembers: \$5. Pre-registration required.

**Geology Walk with Jim Lobely.** Saturday, June 28, 1:30-3:30pm. Learn about the composition and structure of the Cobble rocks and how they affect the soils and the plant life. Pre-registration required.

## AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIPS

Farms are flourishing in Berkshire County, and although historically they have been the home and financial base of many families, Berkshire youth often have little experience with agriculture. So the Sheffield Land Trust, Berkshire Grown and Housatonic River Restoration and are working with Mt. Everett Regional School and local farmers to develop agricultural internship opportunities.

Internships with a variety of farms and agriculturally oriented businesses and organizations are being created. The program seeks to provide juniors and seniors with knowledge about many aspects of farming from food and fiber production, to the effects of agricultural enterprises on the local economy and influence of farming on the Housatonic River Watershed.

Agriculture in the county is diverse and innovative. It offers opportunities in organic and conventional production; traditional and highly mechanized operations; and is as old as our Native American and colonial history and as modern as computers.

The program seeks to develop direct links between academics, agriculture and the future of farming. Opportunities can be as varied as student's interests pursuing almost any conventional discipline in an agricultural setting.

A brochure is available in the Mt. Everett Guidance Office. Registration is underway. For more information contact Ann Hanchett at 528-0374, or David Pottle or Scott Farrel at Mt. Everett. —Ann Hanchett



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# organizations & BUSINESSES

## KIWANIS NEWS

Kiwanis Club members offer a huge thanks to all who supported our Valentine' Day Scholarship Truck Raffle. Alice Burke of Great Barrington was the lucky winner of the 2003 Ford Ranger. Second prize went to Gregg Wesley of Pine Plains, NY., and Denise Rueger won third prize. We will probably offer a new scholarship in memory of the Rev. James Chase at our annual banquet for award winners in June.

Also in February, Kiwanis joined the list of organizations that prepare and serve a hot meal at the Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's Center in Great Barrington.

In April our Highway Litter Patrol was reactivated. Kiwanis does roadside cleanup for a two-mile stretch along Route 7 monthly through October. Steve Shmulsky

returns as chairman.

The popular Kiwanis Little League baseball season kicked off with the Pre-Season Tourney at French Park in Egremont on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. Jason King has joined our team as the new coach of the Sheffield Dodgers. In addition, Kiwanis sponsors T-Ball, a Babe Ruth team, and a revival of the American Legion baseball squad.

We are grateful to Irene McDonald and Hilda Banks Shapiro for staging "The Best of Broadway" on April 25-27 and May 2-4. The musical extravaganza incorporates scenes from several well-known Broadway shows with the proceeds benefiting the Sheffield Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

Kiwanis has purchased an elm tree for planting along Route 7 in support of the Sheffield Tree Pro-

## FOOD PROGRAM

Every Monday morning volunteers from our community gather at Old Parish Church to distribute food to individuals and families who, for a variety of reasons, just can't "do it all." Food is donated from area churches and businesses (Big Y, Price Chopper, etc.) and bought from donated funds.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of food assistance, call the church office (229-8173) or stop in on Mondays from 9:30-10:30.

And don't forget, there is a drop-off barrel for non-perishable food items inside the Sheffield Branch of Berkshire Bank, so you can make a contribution any time the bank is open.

gram. Another sapling will be added next season.

The annual Kiwanis Golf Tourney at the Egremont Country Club occurs on Fri., June 20, this year. Sign-up sheets have been mailed. If you haven't been on a past list and you'd like to tee off this year, call David Smith, Jr. at 644-9691.

MainStage

June 25th - July 19th:

**Funny Girl**

July 23 - August 2:

**Lobby Hero**

August 7 - 23:

**The Game** - World Premiere Musical  
Based on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Stage II

July 2 - 13:

**Ears On A Beetle** - World Premiere

July 30 - August 10:

**The Shape of Things**

Youth Theatre

**Once Upon a Mattress**

July 16 - 27: In Sheffield at CPAC

July 30 - August 10:

In Pittsfield at Springside Park

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barrington stage company

Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director

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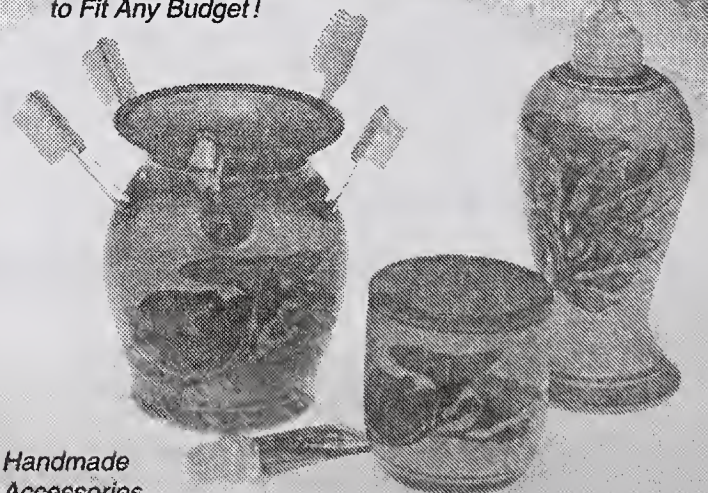
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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

**Old Stone Store exhibit.** The Paper Trail: Sheffield in Print will be on view May 3-July 13. Newspapers from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, local postcards, and business advertisements provide details on the doings of our forefathers and mothers. Read about the Centennial Celebration of 1876, and stroll down memory lane as you view graduation programs from the old Sheffield High School. The exhibit is made possible through the efforts of Tony Carlotto and James Miller.

**Best seller of long ago.** The first printing of *Apple Blossoms: Verses by Two Children* flew off the shelves in 1878, and the publisher eventually sold more than 10,000 copies. Its youthful writers, Elaine and Dora Reed Goodale, created a sensation in their day. Henry S. Goodale, a potato farmer in Mount Washington, wrote to publishers proudly of a collection of verses: "They were written by my little daughters (who have now reached the ages of fourteen and eleven) chiefly during the last three years." G.P. Putnam's Sons published the 256-page volume of rhymes. The collection was widely and adoringly reviewed.

Local historian Bernard A. Drew will present "Elaine and Dora Reed Goodale: The Apple-Blossom Poets of the 1870s and Their Sky Farm Childhood." Drew will talk about the Goodales and their creative parents, their grandfather Chester Goodale (who operated a stone quarry in Sheffield—see the related story on page 4), their isolated mountaintop residence, their home

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## NEW LIFE FOR STAGECOACH HILL

Stagecoach Hill Inn on Undermountain Rd. was recently purchased by Racebrook Lodge and David Rothstein who have been fixing up the historic building, portions of which date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The restaurant will be reopened under the management of Kathy and Ted Schiffman. Ted grew up in Sheffield (Mt. Everett class of '73) and has worked in restaurants from Palm Beach to Sun Valley to Santa Barbara. He and Kathy, a child psychotherapist, had been looking for a site for their own restaurant in Vermont when Ted's parents, who still live in Sheffield, told them about the Stagecoach. After some renovations—the entrance is now at the front of the inn—and a lot of cleaning, they plan to reopen the restaurant and bar, which nestles under ancient beams of the second floor of the inn building, at the end of May. There's seating for 40 diners, with benches at the bar.

Ted plans a small core menu of "versatile pub grub"—Cajun oysters, a steak sandwich, homemade ravioli, and other such items. In addition, at least three entrees of his "tasty, accessible food" will change every day. For information, call Stagecoach Hill at 229-8585.

education, their outdoor explorations and their verses. The girls became women of enormous talent and drive; they continued to write all their lives. (Both died in 1953.) The event is free and open to the public in the Community Rooms of Old Parish Church.

**Annual meeting and garden party.** The Annual Meeting will be held Fri., June 13, at 7:30pm. In addition to hearing about the milestones reached by the Society in the past year, the evening will include a special music program: Dallas Cline will share her knowledge and expertise on the American Dulcimer. The program is free and open to the public and will take place in the Community Rooms of Old Parish Church.

Save the date of this year's Sheffield Historical Society's annual Garden Party: Sat., June 21.

*The Old Stone Store, on Main Street (Rte 7), is open Sat. 10am-2pm. & Sun. 11am-3pm. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available by appointment year-round and beginning May 24, Thurs.- Sat. 11am-4pm. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Mon. & Fri. 1:30-4pm and by appointment. For further information on programs, contact the Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, (413) 229-2694 or email us at [shs@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:shs@sheffieldhistory.org).*



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## Real-estate transfers

### February

- 7 Oliver C. & Sharon L. Palma to Alex & Irina M. Perchuk, property at West Rd, Sheffield & Gt. Barrington, \$505,000.
- 7 Randy F. Weinstein to Oliver C. & Sharon L. Palma, property at 954 Boardman St, \$394,000.
- 7 Oliver Palma, Trustee of Big Pine Real Estate Nominee Trust to Randy F. Weinstein, property at 140 East Main St, \$192,000.
- 13 Mark A. & Magdaline Consolini to Mark A. Consolini, property at 247 Water Farm Rd, Transfer.
- 18 Arthur Bachetti to Arthur Scott Bachetti, property at 1130 Home Rd, \$1.
- 19 Janet Street, Valerio Pinci, et al to Bruce Brown, property at Hickey Hill Rd, \$200,000.
- 21 Arnold C. & Diana L. Agar Jr, to Melinda L., Arnold C. Jr. & Diana L. Agar, property at 40 Nancy Ln, under \$100.
- 24 Steepleview Developments, LLC to Adam J. & Allison B. Steinberg, property at Berkshire Lakes, \$25,000.
- 25 Lawrence Littleton & Debra Gardner to Neal Brovitz & Ann H. Appelbaum, property at 399 Hewins St, \$301,000.

- 28 Dana D. Cummings to Martha L. Viera, property at 747 Polikoff Rd, \$160,000.
- 28 Mark H. Massini to Edy Nathan & Christopher M. Koehler, property at 28 Ashley Falls Rd, \$254,000.

### March

- 10 GE Mortgage Services, LLC to Philip & Maria Ghi, property at 179 East Main St, \$48,000.
- 12 William Chernoff & Ileen Lorimer to Duston W. & Susan C. Lowell, property at Berkshire Lake Estates, \$4,000.
- 21 Charles Davis to Charles & Terry Davis, property at 1391 Home Rd, under \$100.
- 21 John D. Bates, Jr to Ronald K. & Sarah A. VanDeusen, property at Root Ln, \$25,000.
- 28 Trust Company of the Berkshires, et al to Eric J. & Patricia J. Carlson, property at South Main St, \$14,000.
- 31 Rosa Cavalier, Estate of to Louis T. Aragi Jr, property at South Main St, \$50,000.

### April

- 1 Joyce Ann Spencer to Miriam Shanley, property at Alum Hill, Transfer.
- 3 Carol S. Logan to Paul J. & Carol H. Collins, property at Foley Rd, \$141,750.

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Page number given after an event if it's written up in this issue. CPAC = Consolati Performing Arts Center at Mt. Everett Regional School.

### May

- 9 Farmers' Market Craft Fair, Old Parish Parking Lot, 4pm (p.1)
- 10-11 Mother's Day Weekend Benefit, Gulotta's Mobil (p.11)
- 11 MOTHER'S DAY
- 13 Environmental Landscaping, Pittsfield, 1:30-2:30pm (p.10)
- 14 River Survey Volunteer Stream Team Training, Dewey Hall, 6:30-8pm (p.13)
- 16 Soil Testing, Old Parish Church parking lot, 4-7pm (p.22)
- 16 Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society meeting, 7:30pm (p.14)
- 16-18 Bulky Waste Disposal, Sheffield Transfer Station (p.14)
- 17 Elm Watch Slide Show, Library, 10am (p.21)
- 19 Gravel Removal Hearing, Town Hall, 7pm (p.14)
- 20 Landscape Painting workshop, Library, 7pm (p.19)
- 20 Health Clinic Meeting, Berkshire South, 4pm (p.11)
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY
- 26 Memorial Day Parades, Village Greens, Sheffield & Ashley Falls (p.10)

### June

- 6 FATHER'S DAY
- 8 Photographing Artwork workshop, Berkshire South, 3-5pm (p.19)
- 13 Historical Society Annual Meeting, Old Parish Church Meeting Room, 7:30 (p.25)
- 20 Farmers Market Puppet Show
- 20 Kiwanis Benefit Golf Tournament, Egremont Country Club, (p.24)
- 21 Historical Society Garden Party, 229-2694 for details (p.25)
- 25 Funny Girl, CPAC (p.22)
- 28 Sheffield Land Trust Potluck & Annual Meeting, Balsam Hill Farm, 10am-2pm 229-0234 for details (p.13)

### ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number - i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>", "3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed.

#### Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p17)
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Tuesdays:

- Kid's Club, Old Parish Church, 9am-12pm
- Council on Aging, Dewey Hall, 9am, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm - 8:30pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last

#### Thursdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am - 1pm
- \*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Fridays:

- Farmers' Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 4-7pm (p1)

#### Saturdays:

- Saturday Market, Dewey Hall, 9am-1pm (p19)
- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>

### SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

See also regular listings above

#### May

- 22 Barbecue with *Page Four*, barbershop quartet, 5:30pm (See p. 11 for details)

#### April

- \*5 Hearing Clinic, 1pm
- 9 Trip to Culinary Institute & Bascobol, 9:30am, Dewey Hall (see p. 11 for details)
- 19 Tri Town Picnic, Sheffield Town Park, 12noon (see p. 11 for details)

ALSO: Churches & Services, p.9 ♦ Family Network, p.13 ♦ Art League p.19 ♦ Barrington Stage , p.22 ♦ Cobble, p.23

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